Wednesday, December 24, 2025
CHRISTMAS EVE
Third Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. Forrest 'Frosty' Krummel
Interim Pastor
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CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Thank you for silencing your phone and other electronic devices.
Please complete prayer requests, as legibly as possible, and place them on the offering plate.

PRELUDE "Silent Night" **Helen Ely, Organist**
(Arranged by: Wilbur Held)

WELCOME AND GREETING **Pastor Krummel**
Leader: Glory to God in the highest,
People: and peace on earth. (Luke 2:14)

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH **The Moss Family**
The Christ Candle

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: The grace of God has come to us;
People: Jesus Christ brings salvation to all. (Titus 2: 11)

***GATHERING HYMNS**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (v.1) **#249**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (v. 1) **#250**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

"Angels We Have Heard On High" (v. 1) **#278**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** **Pastor Krummel**

*Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light***.**
People: Glory to God in the highest.
*Leader: Together we confess our sin and the sin of the world***.**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** **Pastor Krummel**

People: God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less.

***TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION**

People: Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Jesus Christ the Lord.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE** **Pastor Krummel**

Leader: Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people redeemed by God; sought and not forsaken. (Isaiah 62: 11-12) In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
People: Thanks be to God.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Pastor Krummel**

Leader: Gracious God, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, show us the Word made flesh--good news of great joy for all--so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

PRAISE SONG Breath of Heaven **Praise Team**
(By: Amy Grant)

THE FIRST LESSON (Luke 2: 1-7) **Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. So all went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he belonged to the house and family of David. He went there to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloth and placed him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn.

RESPONSE

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. | **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL "Away in a Manger" (vs. 1&2) **#262**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus;
look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

THE SECOND LESSON (Luke 2:8-15) **Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people: Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of angels appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

RESPONSE

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. | **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1&2) **#277**

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;

Christ, by highest heav'n adorned; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;

THE THIRD LESSON (Luke 2:16-20) **Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel**

So the shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in a manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

RESPONSE
And the Word became flesh and lived among us. | **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL **"**What Child Is This?" (vs. 1&2) **#281**
What Child is this, who laid to rest On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Who angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

PRAISE SONG **"**Strange Way to Save the World" **Praise Team**
(By: 4HIM)

THE FOURTH LESSION (Colossians 1:15-20) **Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel**
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

RESPONSE
And the Word became flesh and lived among us. | **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL **"**Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming" (vs. 1&2*)* **# 255**
Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming As men of old have sung.
It came, a Flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind; With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior When half-spent was the night.

SERMON **"**When Peace Touched the Earth" **Pastor Krummel**

CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (vs. 1&4) **#251**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY **Pastor Krummel**

Leader: In Jesus Christ God reached out to us and reminded us of the Divine Love that will never let us go. We respond to this gift by setting aside a portion of that with which we have been entrusted. With joyful hearts we ask God to accept our offering.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** **#815**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, Ye Heavenly Host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!

***BLESSING OF THE GIFTS**

*Leader: O God, you have given us the greatest gift, your Son. Grant that we might learn to give even more freely, and teach us how giving changes us. We give thanks for your unceasing love through a tiny child, the Savior of the world. Amen***.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

CAROL "Silent Night" **#253**

*****When lighting your candle, slide the cup down and tilt the unlit candle to the lit candle. After lighting, slide the cup up to fully enclose the flame. Following the Benediction, extinguish your candle and place it in a basket in the narthex.**

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth
(A time of silent reflection)

***Unison Prayer**

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there. Amen

***BENEDICTION** **Pastor Krummel**

***POSTLUDE** "The Baby Jesus" **Helen Ely, Organist**
(By: Ann Ker Hall)

***Please stand in body or in spirit**